

Coins

Walking Liberty half-dollars keep moving up in class

By Roger Boye

MORE QUESTIONS from Tribune readers are answered this week.

Q — My son has several half-dollars from the 1930s and 1940s that show a walking woman. Are there any special dates we should look for, or should we just use the coins to buy groceries? — A.S., Worth.

A — Don't spend them. Each half-dollar contains more than a third of an ounce of silver, worth about \$6 at current market prices. Half-dollars dated 1938 with a "D" mint mark are worth even more as collectors' items (\$25 and up retail, depending on condition), and so are coins in "uncirculated" or "about uncirculated" condition.

By the way, most experts agree that the "walking Liberty half-dollar," minted from 1916 to 1947, is one of the most beautiful of all United States coins. Liberty is shown carrying branches of laurel and oak (signifying power

and glory), and her right arm is stretched out before her as if giving her spirit to the world.

Q — Several months ago I purchased an 1883 Carson City silver dollar from the government. The coin has no mint mark stamped below the date. Is it a fake? — E.B., Chicago.

A — You're looking in the wrong place. Check the tails side of the coin, just below the eagle, for the "CC" mint mark.

Except for the Lincoln cent, almost all U.S. coins minted before 1965 have the mint mark on the tails side.

Q — I've put together a small hoard of Lincoln cents with "minting errors" — missing letters, doubled mint marks, funny-looking lines around Lincoln's portrait, etc. Where can I get information about collecting such coins? — T.S., Joliet.

A — Error coin expert and author Alan Herbert has a package of material he will send to Tribune readers, free of charge. It includes information about special publications on error

coins, a list of organizations and coin dealers that specialize in error coins, and a brochure filled with hints on starting a collection.

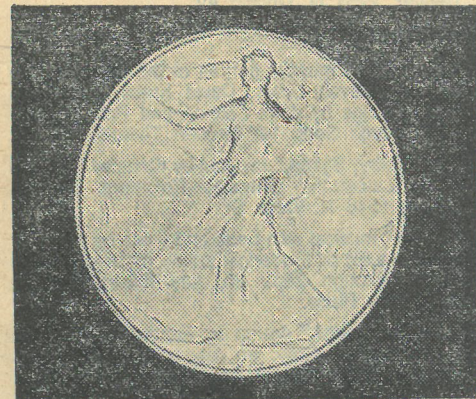
For the material, send a self-addressed, business-sized envelope (with 28 cents of postage attached) to Alan Herbert, Box C, Dept. CT, Deadwood, S.D. 57732.

Herbert also will have the editors of Numismatic News mail you a free copy of their weekly newspaper. It will include Herbert's regular column on error coins called "Odd Corner."

Another weekly newspaper, Coin World, devotes at least a page each issue to error coins. For the most recent issue, visit a local coin store or send \$1 to Coin World, P.O. Box 150, Sidney, Ohio 45367.

Q — I heard a rumor that 1965 quarters will be worth \$8 next year. Can you tell me if this is true and, if so, why? — C.A., Chicago.

A — There's absolutely no truth to the rumor. Quarters dated 1965 are common and they contain no silver.



Walking Liberty half-dollar, heads side.

Perhaps you heard about quarters made in 1964 or earlier. They are worth saving because each coin contains almost two-tenths of an ounce of silver.